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Letter dated 17 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you with regard to the letter from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan dated 5 August 2004 and its annex concerning the military exercise in Nagorno Karabakh, which were circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under item 57 (n) of its provisional agenda, and as a document of the Security Council (A/59/212-S/2004/626).

The Government of Armenia considers this document as yet another attempt of Azerbaijan to divert the attention of the international community from its unconstructive stance in the negotiations within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group to achieve a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. In reality, Azerbaijan's true intentions are clearly manifested in the intensifying unhidden war-mongering by Azerbaijani high-ranking officials, which, in fact, has been affirmed at the highest level — by the President of that country, in his address to the diplomatic corps on 27 July 2004.

Having been subjected to the full-scale military aggression of Azerbaijan in 1991-1994, the people of Nagorno Karabakh cannot disregard these belligerent calls. The military exercise is a necessary measure by the authorities of Nagorno Karabakh to ensure preparedness to protect their people and homeland against the increasing threat of resumption of military hostilities by Azerbaijan. It does not adversely affect peace negotiations, neither does it legitimize the current status.

It is Armenia's strong conviction that there is no meaningful alternative to the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict through negotiations, and we are committed to exert every effort to this end. I should also like to call on the Azerbaijani authorities to engage constructively and pragmatically in the peace

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process, in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict through mutual compromises.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under item 57 (n) of its provisional agenda, and as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative